

**ISLAND COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 28, 2012**

The Island County Council of Governments met in regular session on March 28, 2012 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room 102B, located at 1 NE 6th St., Coupeville. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Nancy Conard at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Larry Kwarsick, Mayor, City of Langley
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District
Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor

Also Present: Don Lee, Water Resource Advisory Committee
Lori Clark, Water Resource Advisory Committee
Jill Wood, Island County Health/Environmental
Lynda Richards, Island County Human Services
Eric Brooks, Island County Dept. of Emergency Management
Walt Blackford, PSE
Rufus Rose
Various community members

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Conard called the meeting to order and welcomed Scott Dudley, Mayor of Oak Harbor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2012 Regular Session as presented. Motion carried with correction to spell out ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives).

SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION

Voucher for Sustainable Whidbey Coalition along with the 2011 Budget, 2012 Budget and YTD were provided. Commissioner Benye Weber asked who solicited these funds since Sustainable Whidbey Coalition (SWC) was not part of ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives). Chair Nancy Conard stated that SWC was formed by a variety of public entities and also some private entities that are involved with sustainability efforts. SWC operates under the umbrella of the Council of Governments. It is voluntary participation with funds coming from member contributions. Last year SWC received a grant for \$5000 from Whidbey Island Bank to implement the Whidbey Green Seal Program and prior year received about \$2500 from Northwest Clear Air Agency to help support the creation of the coalition. Also the Council of Governments with the Green Power Challenge was able to funnel the \$25,000 grant from Puget Sound Energy through SWC. SWC was started as an informal grass roots effort from a variety of people in the community in 2007. Chair Conard suggested that she give a report on SWC at a future meeting to answer questions presented. The only purpose SWC operates as an umbrella to the COG is for processing the funds so vouchers can be processed legally in

an audit. There has been some discussion about possibly moving the SWC into its own interlocal agreement so the COG would not necessarily have to be involved to the extent it is. This idea will be included in the SWC report and discussed at a future meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the SWC voucher. Motion carried. Mayor Dudley abstained.

REVISED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

Lynda Richards, Island County Human Services was asked to conduct a discussion on the revised interlocal agreement establishing the Housing Advisory Board. Two years ago the Commissioners decided to reassign and reauthorize the way some of the funds regarding housing were handled and transferred this to the Human Services Department. They proposed to consolidate the two governing board into one and to adopt a new interlocal agreement between the County, cities and towns. Coupeville and Langley adopted the new interlocal but the City of Oak Harbor had some interest in additional changes. The interlocal was revised again by the previous administration of Oak Harbor to the current version included in the meeting packet. Since there is new Oak Harbor administration, Lynda Richards was asked to come and give an update so COG members could decide to make changes or adopt as is.

Although the two groups have been meeting together without a new interlocal agreement they have had to make decisions separately, which is sometimes confusing. Lynda would like to get the interlocal finalized and formally appoint board members. She was asked to explain the two different funding. There is Homeless Housing Fund and a Low Income Housing Fund which is a smaller fund to specifically promote affordable housing. The Homeless Housing Fund is primarily used for rental assistance. Lynda will email an updated interlocal with appropriate signers on it. The only change requested by the City of Oak Harbor was original language breaking down the allocation of funding for projects. If he gets a clean copy today, Oak Harbor Mayor Dudley will bring it to Oak Harbor Council at April 17th City Council meeting for approval

CITY OF LANGLEY .09 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT REVISION

Chair Nancy Conard requested consideration of recommending the grant revision of the City of Langley's .09 Rural Economic Development Grant revision. At the last meeting a question was raised about whether the funds could be used for planning so it was suggested that the decision on recommending the grant revision be postponed until the next meeting. Chair Conard asked the Commissioners for input on what they wanted in terms of a recommendation or if there were any issues they particularly would like considered.

Commissioner Price Johnson stated that she could not find anything in the RCW prohibiting using the funds for planning purposes but it is clear that the intent is to have maximum economic development and job creation. If they want to use funds for planning purposes it should be clearly stated in the application. Commissioner Price Johnson suggested going forward to be more focused on this money going towards the construction side of it and be leveraged for other monies that might be better suited for pre-planning. As an example the City of Oak Harbor's report indicated their Pioneer Way project used their Rural Funds more in the construction side of it.

Commissioner Homola suggested that the entity requesting Rural Funds have a commitment for the total funding of their project. Chair Conard suggested that COG make a recommendation and the Commissioners actually enact the contract agreement earmarking these funds for the projects. She encouraged not releasing the funds until the entity has all the funding for construction or has commitments for funding to ensure you actually get infrastructure with completed construction as opposed to providing funds upfront to do planning and design without any construction. Mayor

Kwarsick stated that the City of Langley would be fine with the Commissioners earmarking the funds for the project for leverage to obtain matching funding.

It moved and seconded to recommend the City of Langley's 09 Rural Economic Development Grant revision. The motion carried unanimously.

WRAC ANNUAL UPDATE

Don Lee began his report on the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) with background on the origination of the committee. Originally there were many committees working on water resources and in May of 1999 the County Commissioners decided to sunset all the committees and set up one water resource committee for the entire County and that has been the WRAC. It has two significant areas of duties:

- To review existing water resource plans and all the different aspects of ground water, surface etc.
- To monitor the implementation of said plans as well as future plans and programs recommending to the Board of Commissioners manage of and improvement to the plans and programs and coordinating with any other water resource organization that might exist including the Marine Resource Committee (MRC)

Don stated that the WRAC and MRC finally had their first joint meeting last week. The WRAC is comprised of voting members and non-voting members with 9 citizen voting member initially. The county entered into a contract for watershed management with a citizens group the WRAC. The WRAC was also given the duties of managing the Salmon Recovery program. With the addition of these duties it was decided to change from 9 members to 12 voting citizen members – 4 from each Commissioner's District and 2 co-chairs one from each island. There are also non-voting members to include one or more representative from County staff – County Health, Public Works, Planning, Snohomish and Whidbey Conservation Districts, WSU Extension and Environmental Planner as Coordinator, and one representative from each of the towns and cities. They also have one representative from local Native Tribes and from State Dept. of Health, Ecology, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, Salmon Recover, and Puget Sound Partnership.

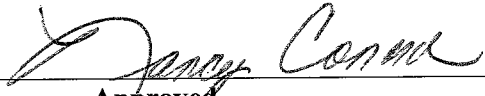
Accomplishments:

- They have developed a pro-active sea water intrusion plan which was passed by the Board of Health and became a new ordinance for the County
- Produced Multi-species Salmon Recovery Plan
- Set up a potable water emergency preparedness plan and presented to Commissioners which is now moving forward
- Instrumental in setting up a Whidbey Island Water System Association to coordinate with the 850 water systems in the County
- Worked on Rain Water Harvesting - until a year ago it was illegal for anyone to catch water in a rain barrel – now a blanket permit for up to 20,000 gallons that people can collect
- Oversee Clean Water Utility and producing an annual report
- Working with the county on non-point pollution
- Set up a sub-committee to work on pharmaceuticals getting into drinking water – awareness and education
- Reactivation of data collection
- Salmon Recovery Process

AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Emergency Preparedness

Dated this 28 day of March, 2012.


Approved